

REMARKS

Claims 33 and 35-69 are pending in this application. Claims 17-24, 26-32, and 34 have been canceled. Claims 1-16 and 25 were canceled previously. Claim 33 has been amended to recite the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 34. Claims 37, 39, 40, 45, 46, and 49 have been amended to improve their form. Claims 52-69 are new. New independent claims 52-56 represent allowable claims 38, 40, and 44-46, respectively, written into independent form. New dependent claims 57-68 recite subject matter similar to dependent claims 34, 35, 37-42, and 48-51, respectively. Support for new dependent claim 69 can be found throughout the specification and particularly on page 27, lines 24-29 of the as-filed specification, for example. No new matter has been added.

Withdraw of all currently applied rejections is respectfully requested for at least the reasons set forth below.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate that dependent claims 34, 38, 40, and 44-47 would be allowable if the claims were rewritten into independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As indicated above, claims 34, 38, 40, and 44-46 were written into independent form. Accordingly, all independent claims are in allowable form.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

Claims 33, 35, 36 and 41-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,981,779, Wagner.

Claims 33, 35, 37, and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable by U.S. Patent No. 5,047,627, Yim in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,048,525, Maxwell.

Claims 48-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wagner in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,673,622, Jina.

Claims 48 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wagner in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0072357, Stiene.

As stated above, independent claim 33 has been amended to recite the subject matter of allowable claim 34. New independent claims 52-56 represent the independent form of allowable dependent claims 38, 40, and 44-46. Accordingly, all pending independent claims are believed to be in allowable form.

Dependent claims 35-51 and 57-69 are believed to be patentable over the cited references for at least the reason that the dependent claims 35-51 and 57-69 depend from allowable base claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 33 and 35-51 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that new claims 52-69 be allowed.

Conclusion

Insofar as the Examiner's rejections having been adequately addressed, Applicants believe that the current application, including claims 33 and 35-69, is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' undersigned representative to discuss this application should the Examiner determine such a discussion would facilitate the application's allowance.

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